Remarks

Claims 1-83 are pending and at issue in the present application.

As an initial matter, applicants would like to point out that the examiner has not indicated consideration of papers entitled: "Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement" dated May 28, 2002, "Second Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement" dated June 11, 2002, "Eighth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement" dated August 27, 2003, "Ninth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement" dated September 4, 2003, and "Tenth Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement" dated September 22, 2003. Applicants kindly request that the examiner return initialed copies of FORMS PTO-1449 for these papers to the undersigned and/or inform the undersigned if any of such papers are missing from the Patent Office file so that copies can be forwarded to the examiner.

Applicants traverse the rejections of the claims at issue as anticipated by or obvious over Pawloski et al., Tanizaki et al., Phillips, Komatsu et al., and Incorvia et al.

Claim 1, and claims 2-32, 64, 66, and 78-80 dependent thereon, specify a single use processing substrate comprising a first cut-resistant layer having a first surface area and including a cellulosic ply and a thermoplastic ply. The substrate further includes a second layer having a second surface area and including a cellulosic ply and a thermoplastic ply, wherein the first layer is secured to the second layer such that a portion of the second surface area is laterally disposed outside of the first surface area.

Claim 33, and claims 34-63, 65, 67-69, and 81-83 dependent thereon, recite a single use processing substrate comprising a first cut-resistant layer having a first surface area and a ply of tissue disposed below a ply of thermoplastic material. The substrate further includes an unfolded second layer having a second surface area and a ply of tissue disposed above a ply of thermoplastic material, wherein the first layer is secured to and substantially centered on the second layer in at least one dimension such that a portion of the second surface area is laterally disposed outside of the first surface area.

Claim 70, and claims 71-77 dependent thereon, specify a processing substrate including a cut resistant portion having a first surface area and an absorbent portion disposed adjacent the cut resistant portion and having a second surface area. The substrate further includes a barrier portion disposed adjacent the absorbent portion, wherein the cut resistant

portion, the absorbent portion, and the barrier portion are secured to one another such that a section of the second surface area is laterally disposed outside of the first surface area.

None of the cited references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a processing substrate having a first cut-resistant layer having a first surface area and including a cellulosic ply and a thermoplastic material ply and a second layer having a second surface area and including a cellulosic ply and a thermoplastic material ply, wherein the first layer is secured to the second layer such that a portion of the second surface area is laterally disposed outside of the first surface area, as recited by claims 1-32, 64, 66, and 78-80.

In addition, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a single use processing substrate having a first cut-resistant layer having a first surface area and a ply of tissue disposed below a ply of thermoplastic material and an unfolded second layer having a second surface area and a ply of tissue disposed above a ply of thermoplastic material, wherein the first layer is secured to and substantially centered on the second layer in at least one dimension such that a portion of the second surface area is laterally disposed outside of the first surface area, as recited by claims 33-63, 65, 67-69, and 81-83.

Additionally, none of the cited references, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests a processing substrate having a cut resistant portion having a first surface area, an absorbent portion disposed adjacent the cut resistant portion and having a second surface area, and a barrier portion disposed adjacent the absorbent portion, wherein the cut resistant portion, the absorbent portion, and the barrier portion are secured to one another such that a section of the second surface area is laterally disposed outside of the first surface area, as recited by claims 70-77.

In fact, Pawloski specifically discloses in FIGS. 8 and 9 an absorbent insert for food packages including a cooking surface disposed atop at least one layer of tissue wherein the cooking surface and tissue layers have the same surface area and apertures extend through at least the cooking surface. The insert further includes a plastic sheet disposed below the at least one layer of tissue, wherein the plastic sheet includes a surface area disposed outside a surface area of the cooking surface and tissue layer(s). Pawloski does not disclose a tissue ply and a thermoplastic ply, wherein a surface area thereof is laterally disposed outside of a surface area of a top, thermoplastic layer.

Tanizaki et al. discloses a polypropylene composition including a resin comprising metallocene polypropylene including a copolymer of propylene and ethylene. The resin also optionally may comprise additives including, but not limited to, talc, calcium, magnesium, and antioxidants.

Phillips discloses a grease and moisture absorbing insert for microwave cooking including a first layer with a plurality of holes, a second absorbent layer, and a third bottom layer. All three layers are disclosed to be of the same size and shape.

Komatsu et al. discloses a package containing an agent for retaining the quality of food kept therein. The package comprises an outer layer of a substantially gas-impermeable material, a first seal layer formed on an inner side of the outer layer, an inner layer formed on an inner side of the first seal layer, and a gas-permeable second seal layer formed on an inner side of the inner layer. Peripheral portions of the second seal layer are adhered to one another to form a sealed package.

Incorvia et al. discloses an adhesive desiccant deposit comprising a hot melt adhesive with a desiccant dispersed within the adhesive. The desiccant deposit is deposited on a substrate and the substrate is, in turn, attached to a removable liner by a first adhesive layer. All of the layers are disclosed to be of the same shape and size.

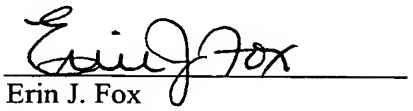
Because the prior art does not disclose each of the elements recited by the claims at issue, it follows that such claims are not anticipated thereby.

Further, because none of the prior art discloses or suggests that it would be desirable or even possible to provide a processing substrate having a first cut resistant layer having a first surface area and a second layer having a second surface area, wherein the first layer includes at least a thermoplastic material ply and the second layer includes a tissue or cellulosic ply and a thermoplastic material ply and wherein the first layer is secured to the second layer such that a portion of the second surface area is laterally disposed outside of the first surface area as specified by the claims at issue, it is evident that the claims, as amended, are not obvious thereover. The prior art must disclose at least a suggestion of an incentive for the claimed combination of elements in order for a *prima facie* case of obviousness to be established. See *In re Sernaker*, 217 U.S.P.Q. 1 (Fed. Cir. 1983) and *Ex Parte Clapp*, 227 U.S.P.Q. 972, 973 (Bd. Pat. App. 1985). Accordingly, the obviousness rejections should be withdrawn.

An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

McCracken & Frank LLP

By: 
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